On the basis of these norms the Pusa-44 variety of paddy/rice stands classified as Fine in the State of Punjab and accordingly this variety was considered to be fine variety by procurement agencies during 1996-97.

In this regard the Govt. of India use to clarify to all State Governments/U.T.s while forwarding the Uniform Specifications of paddy, rice and kharif coarse grains every year including 1996-97 that the procurement of the grains may be ensured by all of them strictly in accordance with the uniform specifications so as to avoid any problem/complaint during storage and subsequent issues to the public.

[English]

Fire Incidents Due to Short Circuits

1067. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Lapton per betha Mahanagar" appearing in 'Dainik Jagaran' dated May 28, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government in the matter; and

(d) the number of major fire incidents caused by electric short circuits in the country during the last three years including the year 1997 so far, State-wise and year-wise with special reference to Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The news item refers, inter alia, to major fires in the recent past in Delhi and gives analysis of the possible causes of these incidents.

As fire is a State subject, it is essentially for the State Governments to take such measures as are necessary to prevent incidents such as those mentioned in the news item. The Central Government, however, on its part has been providing advisories, training facilities and financial assistance to the States to strengthen their infrastructure relating to Fire Services. The Government does not maintain figures of 'causewise' incidents of fire centrally.

[Translation]

Cases Pending Under Consumer Courts

1068. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :
SHRI RAMSAGAR :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending before the State Consumer's Grievances Redressal Commission till date, level-wise and State-wise and the period of their pendency;

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to dispose of these cases expeditiously; and

(c) the number of cases in which the Commission has taken action during each of the last three years and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) A statement showing the number of cases pending before the Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions, State-wise, as reported by the States/UTs is attached.

(b) Some of the steps taken by the Central Government for speedy disposal of the pending cases by the Consumer Courts are as follows:—

(i) To strengthen the infrastructure of the Consumer Courts, Central Government has provided one-time grant of Rs. 54.62 crores to the States/UTs during 1995-97.

(ii) Central/State Governments and the National Commission are regularly monitoring the working of the Consumer Courts.

(iii) State/UT Governments have been requested to fill up the vacancies of Members/Presidents of various Consumer Courts on priority basis.

(iv) Central Government has written to the State Governments to hold periodical meetings with the Presidents of the Consumer Courts to monitor and expedite the disposal of the cases.

(c) The details of the total number of cases filed and action taken by various courts for disposal since inception are given at the Statement. Separate year-wise figures are not maintained.

Statement

Disposal of cases by State Commissions

State/UTs	Number of Cases/Complaints			
	File since Inception	Disposed of Since Inception	Pending cases	At the end of
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	7719	6118	1601	Feb-97
Arunachal Pradesh	14	10	4	Jan-97
Assam	657	271	386	Apr-96
Bihar	3165	1572	1593	Dec-97
Goa	621	514	107	Dec-97
Gujarat	4663	3778	885	Jan-97
Haryana	4889	3504	1385	May-97
Himachal Pradesh	1502	1108	394	Feb-97
Jammu & Kashmir	51	9	42	Dec-96
Karnataka	4499	3106	1393	Aug-96
Kerala	8619	7803	816	May-97
Madhya Pradesh	3143	2254	889	Dec-95
Maharashtra	8561	6366	2195	Dec-96
Manipur	33	18	15	Sep-95

1	2	3	4	5
Meghalaya	29	10	19	Dec-96
Mizoram	11	11	0	Jan-97
Nagaland	4	0	4	Sep-94
Orissa	4620	2287	2333	Dec-96
Punjab	2514	1487	1027	May-97
Rajasthan	12087	4588	7499	Feb-97
Sikkim	12	10	2	May-97
Tamil Nadu	8140	6305	1835	Apr-97
Tripura	253	155	98	Mar-97
Uttar Pradesh	14879	3772	11107	Dec-96
West Bengal	3691	1208	2483	Dec-96
A & N Island	12	11	1	May-97
Chandigarh Admn.	1306	1183	123	May-97
D & N Haveli	0	0	0	Nov-96
Daman & Diu	0	0	0	Sep-94
Delhi	6639	4710	1929	Mar-97
Lakshdweep	7	7	0	Mar-97
Pondicherry	388	302	86	Jun-97
Total:	102728	62477	40251	